

Alaska State Legislature

House Fisheries Committee

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HOUSE BILL 54

Version O

"An Act establishing the Alaska Invasive Species Council in the Department of Fish and Game; relating to management of invasive species; relating to invasive species management decals; and providing for an effective date."

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

(Revised 4.7.21)

Section One

Adds a new section to uncodified law that states it is the intent of the legislature that the Department of Fish and Game does not use money from the state's general fund to support the Alaska Invasive Species Council, and instead finds other sources of funding to support the council.

Section Two

Section 16.20.800 establishes the invasive species management decals. The decals will be produced by the Department of Fish and Game annually and made available for sale to the public for a \$20 fee. The department will work in conjunction with the Alaska Invasive Species Council described in **Sec. 16.20.810** to design and produce the decals. The legislature may then appropriate the proceeds from the sale of the decals to further produce the decals or to the invasive species response fund described in **Sec. 16.20.820**, to carry out the work of invasive species response.

Section 16.20.810 establishes the Alaska Invasive Species Council in the Department of Fish and Game. The council will be comprised of representatives from the Departments of Fish and Game, Natural Resources, Environmental Conservation and Transportation and Public Facilities. Furthermore, the council will have members from stakeholder organizations and industries appointed by the governor to three-year terms, as well as representatives from federal agencies that deal with invasive species.

Additionally, **Section 16.20.810** outlines the responsibilities of the council. This section requires that the council be responsible for facilitating cooperation between state, federal, tribal, local agencies, and nongovernmental organizations in the management of invasive species. The council

will be tasked with recommending coordinated interagency strategies and policies related to the management of invasive species. The council will also provide guidance on how to prioritize the response to invasive species and how to best use funds from the invasive species response fund. Lastly, the council will be responsible for selecting designers of the invasive species control decals and approving and promoting the designs.

Furthermore, **Section 16.20.810** provides guidance on council meetings and deliverables. The council will meet at least once a year, and by January 15th of each odd-numbered year, the council shall produce a plan that addresses the economic impact of invasive species and recommends legislation and funding to implement the council's priorities.

Section 16.20.820 establishes an invasive species response fund in the general fund and allows the department to use the funds to prevent, control, or eradicate invasive species.

Section 16.20.850 defines commissioner, council, department, invasive species, management of invasive species and non-native species.

Section Three

Section 37.05.146 adds the invasive species decal fee to the list of separately accounted program receipts.

Section Four

Gives direction to the governor regarding the appointment of the members, chair, as well as timing and number of meetings in the initial year.

Section Five

Establishes an immediate effective date.